

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[55] A dedicated service finder runs on each host on which data management services run. This service finder caches handles that allow clients to manage the corresponding service and keeps track of other hosts that are also running the service 5 finder. In one embodiment, the service finder registers itself with an existing lookup service so that a client can perform a single lookup for the service finder and then obtain other services from it. Accordingly, only a single lookup is required to obtain all the services running on a specific host. In accordance with another embodiment, the service finder monitors events generated by existing lookup services that occur when 10 other service finders register with the lookup services. In this manner, the service finder can maintain a list of other hosts that have service finders running on them. This arrangement allows a client that has located one service finder to retrieve from that service finder information concerning other hosts and data services running on those hosts.